



# From November 2019

## Volume 108

### NEPAL BLOG#3





## Photo History



Nepal's tourism sector officially opened for westerners in 1951 but remained seriously hindered by a lack of proper planning and investment, continuous political instability. Once a popular final destination at the end of the hippie trail with legalised marijuana and hashish shops in Kathmandu, Nepali tourism was at its lowest during the civil war in the 1990s. Enthused by the upsurge since the peace process began, Nepal aims to welcome two million tourists in 2020, double the 2018 figures, via the concerted Visit Nepal 2020 initiative. With a lack of proper facilities for high-end tourism termed the "infrastructure bottleneck", the flag carrier in shambles and blacklisted by the developed countries, and with only a small number of popular destinations properly developed and marketed, the goal is considered too ambitious.

The home-stay tourism, in which cultural and eco-tourists stay as paying guests in the homes of indigenous people, is considered a more equitable and viable means of developing the sector, has seen some success. Lumbini and other Hindu and Buddhist pilgrimages including Pashupati temple, Swayambhu and Boudhanath in Kathmandu, Muktinath in Mustang, and Janakpur, the capital of the ancient kingdom of Videha and home to goddess Sita, are among the premier destinations for the development of spiritual, religious and cultural tourism. Diversifying eco-tourism by developing and marketing less popular national parks, trekking routes and mountains are considered essential for the growth of the industry.



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November 2019.

This is the third and final volume of the Nepal 'Photo History' continues ...based on our blog that we faithfully posted every time we were able to get wi-fi in Nepal.

This volume shows the trek after we left the school in Siklis and also after leaving the other hilltop village: Tanting.

The scenery varied considerably and hopefully the photos and text (much of it taken directly from our blog) gives a good indication of the real Nepal, truly a wonderful country

November 2019.

After 4 ½ hours trekking from Tanting we had arranged for a Land Rover to meet us and it took us steeply up a hellish twisty unmade road over frequent recent landslides. This would have scared anyone. It took over 45 minutes and that would have taken us at least another 6 hours trekking so we would have arrived at Yangjakot after 6.00pm after night had set in.



The ride was a sensible decision and allowed us to really enjoy our stay at another Home Stay: Rock On Guest House. This was very colourful and basic with outside shower and toilet and our room was under beams in a white stone barn. Hives were in the upstairs windows of the main building.



## Trek Day#7..Sat 23rd November 2019.

### Tanting to Yangjakot

Staying in a Home Stay is very different from our normal daily life and at night we were aware of dogs barking all around and from approx. 5.30 am people passed along the narrow stone paths with oxen and ploughs down to the terraces below. Cockerels crowed, sheep in a lower corral bleated and schoolchildren laughed as they passed at this unearthly hour.

A breakfast in the open consisted of hot Gurum bread with fresh boiled eggs and sweet milky tea. As if this wasn't enough the view was breath-taking. A vast panorama of the clearly defined snow-capped Annapurna range contrasted with the extensive terraced rice fields descending deep down to the valley where the roar of the Madi Khola could be heard. The busy village people were working on all the terraces: rice was being cut and formed into the familiar small hay stacks, oxen pulling basic hand ploughs and straw was being burnt as fertiliser.



Lynn and I walked around Yangjakot and realised how very rural the lifestyle was. We seemed to 'intrude' into small holdings but were greeted everywhere with smiles



Locals make the long journey by moped or battered local bus.











Photo History







# Photo History















Lots of the crops such as millet are dried on the sloping roofs



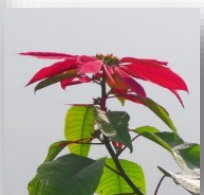
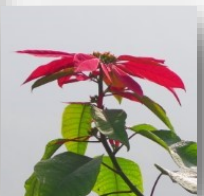
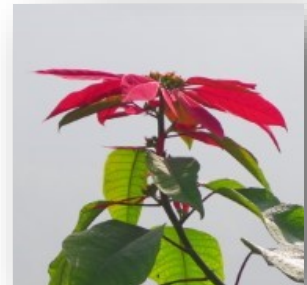
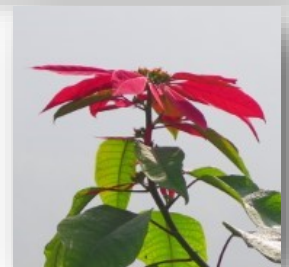




## Photo History



These outstanding Poinsettia shrubs were everywhere and contrasted wonderfully against the clouds and hills below. Lalupate is one of those species that was brought to Nepal from abroad. These shrubs grow as high as 4m







## Photo History

Walking round Yangjakot was very special because we really saw their everyday life and it seemed as if it had not changed for generations











In the previous book I showed photos of the children protesting about the pollution of the water and also a photo of how the local water course is being degraded. Children will be the way forward to ensure the older people change their ways and this is very positive evidence



## A water project in the village of Yangjakot

Clean water from the project is fed to 215 households, two schools, two temples, six community centres and a health post, as well as various other public buildings. In addition, the programme ensures that all households have their own private toilets.

At a cost of around £110,000, Yangjakot is one of the largest single water projects undertaken. It was funded by UK Aid from the British people as part of work as one of DFID's implementing partners in Nepal.

Around 1,350 residents have already seen their lives transformed by the project. The previous water supply had been built in early 1980s. It comprised a few communal tap stands that had deteriorated over time and were not enough for the growing population.

The projects provide private household supplies, saving up to three hours typically spent queuing and transporting water each day. It also vastly reduces the distance travelled carry heavy loads – a task that usually fell to women and children

The consistent water supply, combined with labour hours saved, means that villages see an improved economy. They also experience dramatic drops in sickness rates, with waterborne diseases such as dysentery



On entering the village we passed the small Buddhist shrine and small lake and this local was insistent that he blessed me here







## Photo History

These shots show how inaccessible the village is and at 1500 meters with such steep terrain obviously mechanised farming would not be practical or possible. All of the small local houses had a smallholding with chickens, cattle and everyone was so friendly















The Home Stay was called “Rock On” and was very welcoming . Yes, it was basic but we expected that and at night they lit a fire in the courtyard with coloured lights and music .







This was our room



Sweet spiced milky tea and fresh pancakes for breakfast







These children were totally absorbed in their game







## Photo History



We left the lovely village of Yangjakot with garlands of marigolds and we were sad to leave







Photo History











Our Land Rover went steeply down hill round hairpin bends on the unmade pot-holed track



Sheer drops and hairpin bends plus frequent landslides did not fill us with confidence







Roadside maintenance was not a highly skilled enterprise









The well packed local bus appeared as we were loading up backpacks into the Landrover











### Photo History

At one point our Landrover suddenly left the track and entered the watercourse. Eagles all around us and we stopped to clean the road dust off the vehicle







Nepal Electricity Authority and Himel Power Limited entered into a Power Purchase Agreement for the Khimti Hydroelectric Project on January 15, 1996 for a twenty-year-long period commencing on the above date and ending on July 11, 2020. After the expiration of the PPA period, HPL shall arrange for the transfer to NEA of a fifty percent (50%) ownership interest for a nominal consideration of one (1) Rupee





As we approached Begnas Lake the fields and small holdings were slowly being built on and attractive developments were seen in the centre of fields with rural activities all around







With haystacks next to a new development and mopeds with cattle food replacing tractors and farm animals wandering around, it was a picture of society changing











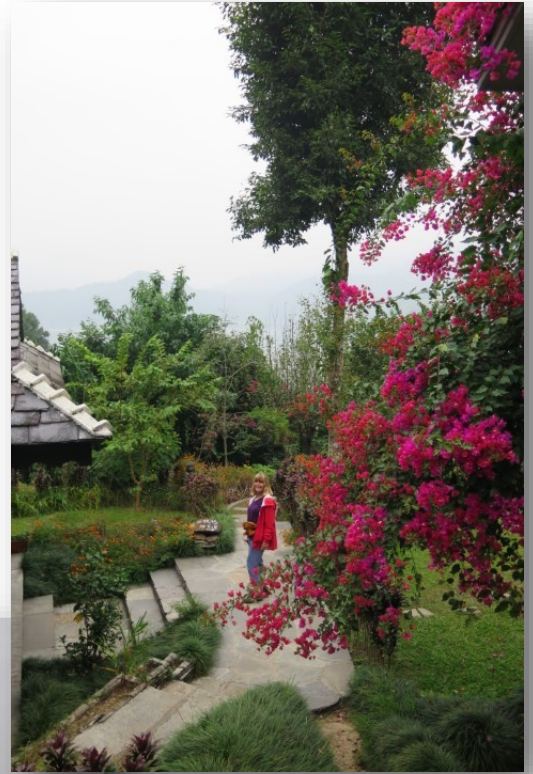








## Photo History



As we walked down the steep winding path through lush gardens, the lake below could be seen through the trees. The Begnas Lake Resort was built on former rice terraces which had been beautifully landscaped. Begnas Lake was tranquil and surrounded by nature conservancy areas which kept the true beauty of this totally unspoiled area.









Photo History

























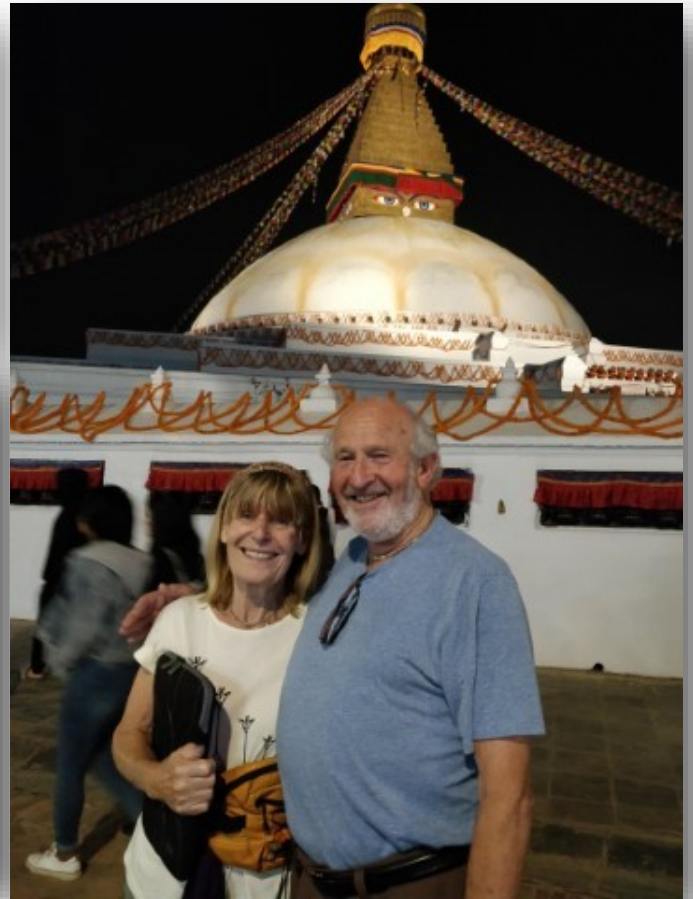


The Nepalese version of the pedalo...everyone on board was pedalling (and presumably also paying for the privilege)









Raj presented us with certificates showing our trek achievement







Our final 'get together' at The Kathmandu Hyatt with Pasang and Sagar







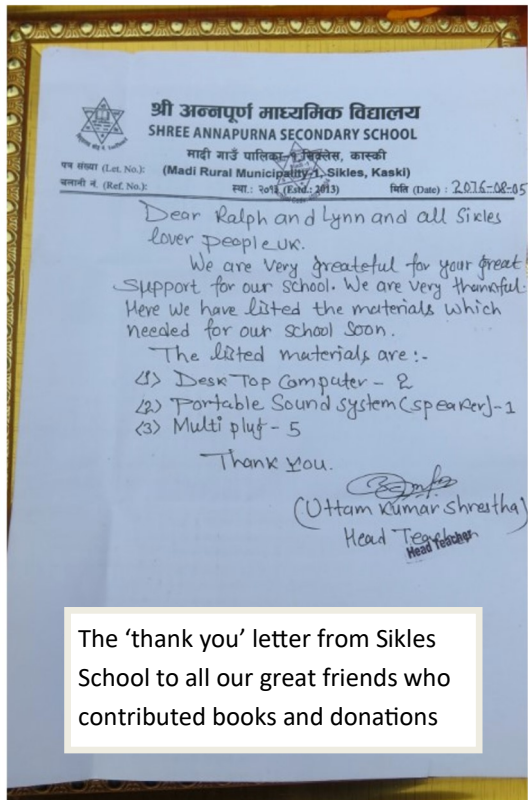
Sikles school presented us with this wonderful  
Token of Love which we will treasure







## Photo History

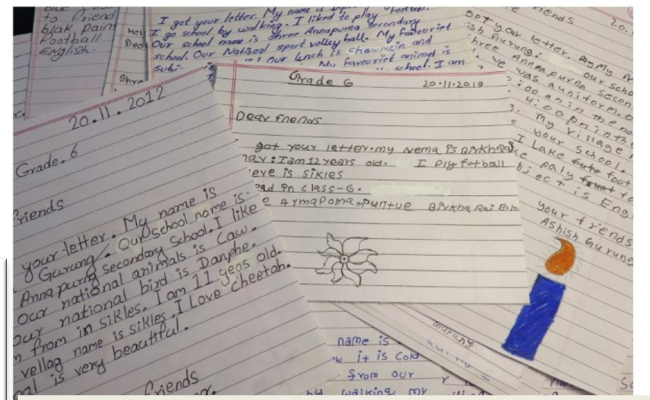


The 'thank you' letter from Sikles School to all our great friends who contributed books and donations



The certificate I gave to Sikles school showing the total amount we had received in donations for the school

**This is  
what  
our  
whole  
trip was  
all about**



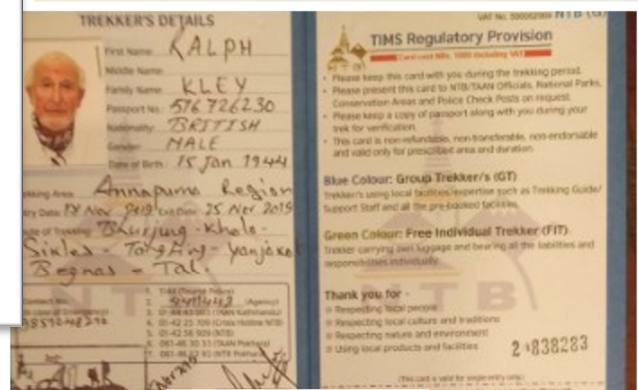
Wonderful messages from Sikles School responding to their counterparts in Wolfson Hillel in Southgate



The original messages from Wolfson Hillel School in Southgate which we took up to Sikles School in Nepal



## Nepalese banknotes



## Our trekking permits

